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DECEMBER 5.

Mr. VAUX, Vice-President, in the chair.

Forty-two members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

“Our Sidereal System and the Direction and Distance of its Centre.” By JACOB ENNIS.

“On some Extinct Reptiles and Batrachia from the Fort Union and Fox Hills Beds of Montana.” By EDW. D. COPE.

On Ozocerite.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that the fine collection of specimens of Ozocerite, and minerals with which it is found associated, presented this evening by Mr. Paul Dobel, through Dr. F. Migerka, the Austrian Commissioner, were well worthy the attention of the members. The Ozocerite, Erdwachs or mineral wax of the Germans, is found in association with clay, sand, and salt, at Boryslaw, in the Carpathians, Galicia. The collection consists of a fine series of the Ozocerite of different varieties: the ordinary brown resin-like kind; a lemon-yellow flaky form; another lemon-yellow but fibrous kind; a black carbonaceous form, etc., with specimens associated with rock salt, and others with clay and sandstone. Besides these there are a number of specimens obtained from the crude material; a mass of chocolate-brown hue; another undistinguishable in appearance from ordinary yellow beeswax, and a third looking like white wax or like paraffine.

On Hyraceum.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that the large, black bituminous-looking mass presented this evening, through Mr. H. C. Coates, Commissioner of the Colony of Cape of Good Hope, is the substance called Hyraceum, and is said to be the inspissated urine of the *Hyrax capensis*. The animal is reputed to inhabit gregariously, rocky places at the Cape of Good Hope. The accumulated urine in hollows of the rocks, gradually evaporating, is supposed to give rise to the product in question. It is reported as having been employed in medicine with the same effect as castoreum.

Prof. Cope remarked that a material resembling the concretion made by the urine of Hyrax was found in the fissures of the rocks in New Mexico. It was probably the fecal and renal deposit of the wild rat, *Neotoma*.

On Itacolumite.—Prof. W. P. BLAKE remarked that the Mineral Department of the National Museum at the Centennial Exhibition had recently received some specimens of flexible sandstone, re-